



SUBSTITUTE SPECIFICATION

KEY DISTRIBUTION VIA A MEMORY DEVICE

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/126,169, filed 03/25/99 (Attorney Docket PHA 23,637P).

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field Of The Invention

[0002] This invention relates to the field of electronic security, and, in particular, to the encryption and decryption of copy-protected content material.

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Description Of The Related Art

[0003] Digital recording techniques are commonly used to record copy-protected content material, such as, audio and video recordings. Subsequent digital copies of such digital recordings are virtually indistinguishable from the original, and offer the same quality as the original.

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[0004] As the ease of illicitly providing high-quality reproductions of copy-protected content material increases, the need for preventing such reproductions increases. At the same time, however, a legitimate purchaser of such copy-protected content

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material expects to be able to make copies of the content material for his or her own use. A number of "policy groups", such as the SDMI (Secure Digital Music Initiative), and others, have been formed in an attempt to reach an equitable compromise between the

5 opposing needs of the owners or vendors of the copy-protected material and the purchasers of copies of the copy-protected material. As a result of the actions of these policy groups, a variety of encryption and decryption techniques have been developed, and continue to be developed, to limit the number of

10 times that a copy of copy-protected content material can be made, or to limit the number of times that a copy may be played-back, or to place an expiration time on a copy. Similarly, encryption and decryption techniques have been developed that limit the type of actions than can be applied to the copy. For example, a copy may

15 have a limit to the number of times that it can be copied, independent of the number of times that it can be played-back. A "copy-once, play-always" authorization would allow for an infinite number of play-backs, but only one copy; a "copy-never, play-10" authorization would allow for ten play-backs, and no copies of this

20 copy. For ease of reference, the term "rendering" is used herein to identify either a recording function or a playback function. For example, a recorder renders the material to a recording medium, a CD-player renders the material to an audio system, a DVD-player renders the material to an audio-visual system, and so on. In

25 addition to limiting the number and type of renderings, the device

that provides the limited-use copy may also limit the number of limited-use copies of the copy-protected material that are simultaneously available at any given time. That is, for example, if the number of limited-use copies at any given time is limited to
5 ten, the compliant recorder will not provide an eleventh copy until at least one of the first ten copies is "checked-in", and marked as being expired, if not already so marked.

[0005] In a typical embodiment of a limited-use copy, the copy contains a counter or ticket that stores, in a secure manner, an
10 indication of the authorized rights, and a compliant playback device updates the counter with each rendering or each passage of time, as appropriate for the particular authorized right. In the typical embodiment, the device that provides the limited-use copy and the device that renders the material share a cryptographic key
15 or set of keys that are used to prevent the rendering of the material on an illicit device, and to prevent a modification to the authorization parameters. Typically, the content material is encrypted using a symmetric key, and this key is communicated to the rendering device in an encrypted form, using an asymmetric
20 public key that corresponds to a private key that is associated with the rendering device. In this manner, only the intended rendering device is able to decrypt the encrypted content material. This asymmetric public key is also used to encrypt the authorization rights associated with the encrypted content
25 material.

[0006] By limiting the number of simultaneously authorized copies, a compliant provider of the copies cannot be efficiently utilized for an illicit mass production. By limiting the number of times that a copy of copy-protected material can be rendered, the resale value of such a limited-use copy is substantially reduced, thereby diminishing the incentive to illicitly reproduce and sell these copies. At the same time, the purchaser of the original copy of the content material is provided virtually unlimited reproduction rights. The burden on the user of re-recording the expired copies from the original purchased copy is viewed to be minimal, particularly if the number of times that the copy can be rendered before expiring is reasonably high, the number of simultaneous copies is reasonably high, and the effort required for the re-recording is low. The use of an expiration time, in lieu of an expiration based on the number of renderings, can also be used to minimize the resale value of each copy, yet allow the purchaser substantially unlimited reproduction rights. A time-based system based on real time (clock time), however, is not often effective for copy protection, because many illicit copies could be made in a relatively short amount of time, and, conversely, most purchasers would be dissatisfied with a time limit that was not related to whether the material was being rendered during that time. Typically, time-based systems are based on a duration of time that the material is actually rendered, rather than real (clock) time.

[0007] Another scenario for the use of time-limited or usage-limited copies of copy-protected material is for the legitimate vendors of the copy-protected material to sell time-limited or usage-limited copies directly, potentially at a lower cost than the
5 above referenced copies that allow for unlimited reproductions. For example, a limited-use copy may be provided via a download from the Internet, or via a broadcast from a provider, such as a cable or satellite television program provider, with an option to purchase an unlimited-use copy. Or, limited-use copies can be provided as
10 rental items, such as a single-use rental of a video recording that does not require the return of the recording within a limited time period. These and other scenarios for the use of limited-use copies of copy-protected content material can be expected to become increasingly common.

15 [0008] One known method of overcoming a limited-use copy protection scheme is termed a "replay attack". In this method, a bit-for-bit copy is made of the limited-use copy while it contains its full allocation of authorized usage or time, and stored in an archive. Although this copy cannot typically be used in a non-
20 compliant rendering device, because the material is stored in a secured form, this copy can be used, or replayed, on a compliant device by re-recording the bit-by-bit copy of the maximum allocated copy back onto the recording medium. Thus, even though the resale value of a limited-use copy of content material will be lower than
25 the value of an unlimited-use copy, a counterfeiter may choose to

provide such illicit limited-use copies, because of the ease of creating the copies, and the ease of overcoming the limited-use copy protection scheme.

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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0009] It is an object of this invention to provide an encryption method that precludes a replay attack on a limited-use protection scheme. It is a further object of this invention to provide a recording medium having properties that preclude a replay
10 attack. It is a further object of this invention to provide a system that provides limited-use copies of copy-protected material that precludes a replay attack.

[0010] These objects and others are achieved by providing an encryption system having a secure item that is substantially unique
15 for each recording of a copy of copy-protected content material. A memory element is provided in the recording medium that is readable but not writeable by external devices, and whose content changes each time material is recorded onto the medium. In a preferred embodiment, the content of this memory element is used to form a
20 unique encryption key that is used to encrypt the encryption key that is used to encrypt the content material. This unique encryption of the content encryption key is further encrypted using a public key that corresponds to a private key of the intended rendering device. Although the unique encryption key is
25 determinable by reading and processing the content of the

externally read-only memory element, the decryption of the content encryption key requires both the unique encryption key and the private key of the intended rendering device. Because the unique encryption key is based on a content value of the read-only memory element that is unique to each recording to the recording medium, a subsequent illicit re-recording of the original encrypted content material onto the recording medium (a replay attack) will not provide the same unique encryption key as the unique encryption key used to originally encrypt the content encryption key. Because the unique encryption key of the replay attack differs from the original unique encryption key used to encrypt the content encryption key, the rendering device will be unable to decrypt the content encryption key, and thereby will be unable to decrypt the content material, and the replay attack will fail.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

[0011] The invention is explained in further detail, and by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawing wherein:

[0012] FIG. 1 illustrates an example block diagram of an encryption system that provides a copy of copy-protected material that precludes replay attacks in accordance with this invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0013] FIG. 1 illustrates an example block diagram of an encryption system 100 that provides a copy of copy-protected

material on a recording medium 300 that precludes replay attacks in accordance with this invention. The encryption system 100 includes a content provider 200, a recording medium 300, and a rendering device 400. The content provider 200 records encrypted content material and associated information to the recording medium 300, for rendering by the rendering device 400. Any of a variety of conventional recording techniques can be employed, depending upon the form and structure of the medium 300. For ease of understanding, the components utilized to write to and read from the medium 300 are not illustrated in the example block diagram of the content provider 200 and rendering device 400 in FIG. 1.

[0014] In accordance with this invention, the recording medium 300 includes a recording indicator 310 that contains a unique number U. A new number U is created each time encrypted content material 221 is stored to the memory area 320 of the medium 300. Any number of techniques may be used to facilitate the production of this unique number U. In a straightforward embodiment of a solid-state medium 300, the recording indicator 310 includes a counter that is incremented by a modifier 315 with each write access 299 to the memory 320. In a more complex embodiment, the modifier 315 includes a random number generator that provides a new random number to the recording indicator 310 with each write access 299 to the memory 320. Other techniques are also viable, such as the use of a data-time stamp, and others.

[0015] In a preferred embodiment of this invention, the recording indicator 310 is embodied in the "disk sector tag" commonly associated with sectors of memory in a computer memory device. Corresponding tags can be written to optical or magnetic disks via a secure disk drive analogously to the case of computer memory. That is, as the encrypted content material 221 is written to each sector of the memory area 320, the modifier 315 changes the disk sector tag of each sector that is written to. One or more of these changed disk sector tags thereby form the unique number U. By associating the recording indicator 310 with specific sectors, writes to other sectors within the medium 300 will not affect the tags associated with the sectors used to form the memory block 320 for storing the encrypted content material 320. In this manner, memory write operations are distinguishable, even if the medium 300 is not physically segregated into discrete memory blocks 310, 320, 340, 350 as illustrated in FIG. 1.

[0016] It should be noted that the number U can be the collection of all tags in the entire memory thus creating a single key KU for the entire contents of the media. Alternatively the number U and corresponding key KU can be for a single "disk sector" so that each section of the media can be separately rewritten without affecting the other sections of the media.

[0017] To prevent a replay attack, the recording indicator 310 is configured to be externally readable, but not externally controllable. That is, at each occurrence of a write access to the

memory 320, the content recording indicator 310 changes in a manner that is not externally controllable. In this manner, if the legitimate contents in the medium 300 are copied to an archive, and then subsequently re-recorded on the medium 300 from the archive, 5 the recording indicator 310 will, via the modifier 315, contain a different value U' (not illustrated) in the recording indicator 310 than the value U that had been in the recording indicator 310 when the legitimate contents were stored in the medium 300. Note that this value U' in the recording indicator 310 will be different than 10 the original value U, regardless of whether a total bit-by-bit copy of medium 300 is archived, including a copy of the original value U. That is, because the recording indicator 310 is not externally controllable, the original value U cannot be rewritten into the recording indicator 310. In this manner, because a copy of the 15 original contents of the medium 300 can be distinguished from the original contents, by comparing the original value U with the copy-produced new value U', a replay attack can be prevented.

[0018] To facilitate this replay defense, the original value U must be reliably and securely communicated to the rendering device 20 400 that enforces this defense. Any number of techniques may be employed to securely communicate the original value U. For example (not illustrated), the original value U could be "digitally signed" by content provider 200, and this digitally signed information stored in the medium 300. A compliant rendering device 400 will 25 verify that the digitally signed information is authentic, and then

compare the digitally signed original value U to the current value of the value U in the recording indicator 310. If the current value U matches the digitally signed value U, the rendering device 400 is assured that the encrypted content material 321 from the memory 320 is the encrypted content material 221 that was originally stored in the memory 320. If the current value U does not match the digitally signed value U, the rendering device 400 recognizes the attempted replay attack, and precludes a rendering of the content material.

[0019] In a preferred embodiment, as illustrated in FIG. 1, the value U 311 is used by the content provider 200 to encrypt an item when the encrypted content material 221 is originally recorded, and the value U 312 is subsequently used by the rendering device 400 to decrypt the item. If the value U 311 changes between the time the encrypted content material 221 is originally recorded and the time the rendering device reads the current value U 312, the rendering device 400 will be unable to properly decrypt the item that was encrypted based on the original value U 311. If, on the other hand, the value U 311 that is used by the content provider 200 is the same as the value U 312 that is used by the rendering device 400, the rendering device 400 will properly decrypt the item that was encrypted based on the value U 312. In the example of FIG. 1, the aforementioned item that is encrypted based on the value 311 is a content key 202 that is used to encrypt, and subsequently decrypt the encrypted content material 221.

[0020] In the example embodiment of FIG. 1, an encrypter 220 is illustrated for providing the encrypted content material $E_{KC}(CM)$ 221 based on the content key KC. A key generator 210 creates a key KU 212 from the value U 311, typically via a hashing function. In a preferred embodiment wherein the recording indicator 310 is embodied within the disk sector tag for each written sector, the key generator 210 creates the key KU 212 by iteratively hashing the unique value in each disk sector tag corresponding to the encrypted content material memory 320, and optionally, as discussed below, the unique value in each disk sector tag corresponding to the rendering rights memory 350..

[0021] An encrypter 230 uses the key KU 212 to encrypt the content key KC 202 to provide an encrypted content key $E_{KU}(KC)$ 231. At the rendering device 400, this encrypted content key $E_{KU}(KC)$ is shown as reference item 431. A key generator 410, similar to key generator 210, is used to generate a key KU 412, based on the value U 312 in the recording indicator 310 at the time that the medium 300 is read by the rendering device 400. A decrypter 430 decrypts the encrypted content key $E_{KU}(KC)$ 431 using this key KU 412. If the value U 312 corresponds to the original value U 311 that was used in the encryption of the content key KC 202, the decrypter 430 will provide a content key KC 402 that matches the content key KC 202. A decrypter 420 uses the decrypted content key KC 402 to decrypt the encrypted content material $E_{KC}(CM)$ 321 from the memory 320 of the medium 300. If the value U 312 does not correspond to the original

value U 311, the rendering device key KU 412 will not match the original key KU 212, the decrypted content key KC 402 will not match the original content key 202, and, therefore, the decrypted content material CM 401 will not match the original content material 201, and will be substantially unrenderable.

[0022] Also illustrated in the example embodiment of FIG. 1, the content provider 200 includes an optional encrypter 240 that further encrypts the encrypted content key $E_{KU}(KC)$ 231 using a public key KP 204 that is associated with the rendering device 400.

In this manner, the encrypted content key $E_{KU}(KC)$ 231 cannot be decrypted by a device other than the intended receiving device 400, thereby preventing a rendering of the content material 201 by other devices. This doubly encrypted key $E_{KP}(E_{KU}(KC))$ 241 is in a memory 340 of the medium 300. The corresponding rendering device 400 contains a decrypter 440 that decrypts the doubly encrypted key $E_{KP}(E_{KU}(KC))$ 341 from the memory 340 using a private key Kp 404 corresponding to the public key KP 204 of a public-private key pair. This decrypter 440 provides the aforementioned encrypted content key $E_{KU}(KC)$ 431.

[0023] For completeness, FIG. 1 illustrates an authorization module 450 in the rendering device 400 that enforces the limited rendering rights discussed in the Background of the Invention, above. Copending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/454,350, filed December 3, 1999, to Michael A. Epstein, entitled "USAGE DEPENDENT TICKET TO PROTECT COPY-PROTECTED MATERIAL" (Attorney

Docket PHA 23,636), presents a method and system for allocating and enforcing limited rights to each copy of encrypted content material that is stored on a recording medium, and is incorporated by reference herein. As applied to this invention, the content

5 provider 200 includes a rights allocator 250 that stores allocated rights 251 on the recording medium 300. These allocated rights 251 are based on a usage parameter 352 of the medium 300 at the time that the encrypted content material 221 is recorded to the medium 300. The rights 251 may be encoded, for example, as a ticket that

10 is "punched" by a modifier 355 each time the medium is accessed 499 by a rendering device 400, or as a counter that is decremented, and so on. In accordance with another aspect of this invention, the recording indicator 310 may be configured to change its stored value U whenever the memory area 350 that contains the rights are

15 written to from an external source, such as the content provider 200, or by an illicit attempt to modify the rights stored by the content provider 200. As discussed above, if the retrieved value U 312 differs from the original value U 311, the decrypted content material 401 will not match the original content material 201, and

20 will be virtually unrenderable. If the rights in the memory 350 and the encrypted content material in the memory 320 have not been externally changed, the decrypted content material 401 will match the original content material 201 and will be renderable. An authorization module 450 prevents the rendering 401', however, if

25 the usage 353 of the medium 300 has exceeded the rights 351

allocated to the medium 300, via the gate 490. The rendering module 480 represents the components that render the decrypted content material 401, such as an audio system, an audio-video system, a computer system, and the like. The gate 490 represents any of a variety of means commonly available for inhibiting the production of the rendered material 401' from the content material 401 by the authorization module 450.

[0024] The foregoing merely illustrates the principles of the invention. It will thus be appreciated that those skilled in the art will be able to devise various arrangements which, although not explicitly described or shown herein, embody the principles of the invention and are thus within the spirit and scope of the following claims.